

**MINUTES OF THE
COASTAL REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL
May 14, 2014
Richmond Hill City Center, Richmond Hill, GA
10:05 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Jim Thomas called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Invocation was provided by Clarence Knight, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Barker, Sean Register, Shaw McVeigh, Jimmy Starline, Craig Root, William Miller, Dan Coty, Allen Brown, David Boland, Walter Gibson, Herb Jones, Harold Fowler, Jim Thomas, Chap Bennett, Jimmy Burnsed, Priscilla D. Thomas, Donald Lovette, John Morrissey, Reggie Loper, Matthew Barrow, Herb Hill, Chris Blaine, Edna Jackson, and Robert Long.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Clyde Taylor, Margaret Evans, Ken Lee, Tom Ratcliffe, Jan Moore, Kelly Spratt, Charles Wilson, Julie Martin, Hugh Hodge, J.C. Warren, Russell Keen, Jason Coley, and Gwendolyn Davis.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Clarence Knight, Camden County; Dorothy Glisson, Screven County; and Ron Elliott, Fort Stewart.

GUESTS: Terri O'Neil, Historic Savannah Foundation; Clay Mobley, GA Conservancy; Patrick Graham, CHA Consulting; Murray Marshall, Atlantic Investors; Tina Hutcheson, DCA; Bonnie Martin, DHS; Kathryn Murph, Senator Chambliss; and Joe Parker, Jr, Freelance Reporter.

STAFF PRESENT: Allen Burns, Executive Director; Don Masisak, Transportation Director; Lauren Robesky, Economic Development Director; Bill Compton, Grant Specialist; Lupita McClenning, Planning and Government Services Director; Hunter Key, GIS Manager; Stephen Brown, GIS Analyst/Planner; Beatrice Soler, Senior Planner; and Colletta Harper, Administrative Services Director.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chairman Thomas requested approval of the minutes from the April 9th meeting.

Motion: Herb Jones
Second: Chairman Jimmy Burnsed
Vote: Unanimous

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of Resolution to Transmit the 2015-2020 Regional Work Program Update to DCA – (See attachment 1, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.) Ms. Lupita McClenning, Director of Planning and Government Services referred members to the blue handout and highlighted some of the updates to the work program. A motion was made to approve the Resolution

Motion: Chris Blaine
Second: Chairman Jimmy Burnsed
Vote: Unanimous

Approval of Resolution to adopt the 2014-2019 Regional Work Program Update – (See attachment 2, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.) Ms. Lupita McClenning, Director of Planning and Government Services advised that DCA had approved the update that the Council had voted to submit in August 2013 and adoption of that update was now needed. A motion was made to approve the Resolution

Motion: David Boland
Second: Dan Coty
Vote: Unanimous

Approval of Tybee Island Rate Increase – *(See attachment 3, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Mr. Don Masisak, Transportation Director, reported that some savings had already been seen from cutting back the days of service for the Tybee Shuttle from five to three. In an effort to further reduce costs, the CRC is requesting approval to increase the costs from \$3 to \$5 per trip. A motion was made to approve the increase.

Motion: David Boland

Second: Dan Coty

Vote: Unanimous

It was recommended that when notification and advertising of new rate is done, that it be clarified that it is \$5 per one-way trip.

PRESENTATIONS

Savannah Hilton Head Airport – Mr. Gregory Kelly, Executive Director, provided a PowerPoint overview of the history, growth and projected growth of the airport. *(See attachment 4, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* They are a “mini city” in that they have their own police, fire, public works, and administrative departments. Mr. Kelly encouraged members to go to the GDOT website to view the 2011 Georgia Statewide Airport Economic Impact Study Executive Summary which provides information on airports in Georgia. The Savannah Hilton Head Airport’s economic impact is 20,383 jobs; an \$870 million payroll; and a total economic output of \$2.4 billion. With economic development occurring around the airport, congestion at the interchange is becoming a problem and they are working with GDOT and other area developers on a solution.

National Preservation Conference – Ms. Terri O’Neil, Historic Savannah Foundation, provided a brief overview of the National Preservation Conference to be held in Savannah November 11-14, 2014 and the opportunities for conference sponsorship. The conference is expected to attract over 2,200 individuals who are architects, planners, developers, public and private-sector professionals and community activists. *(See Attachment 5, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)*

Legislative Update – Representative Al Williams provided a brief legislative update saying it was a compressed legislative session being an election year and it is a dangerous time to be in Atlanta and some things are just unbelievable. He stated no one went into the session thinking they would ever consider legalizing medical marijuana; however, after learning the facts, there is a great medical need for it. The House liked it but the Senate wanted a trade-off on an Autism bill and both ended up failing. Gun control will not happen in Georgia; however, it took a new low with guns being allowed in churches. Medicaid expansion was another big issue that probably would have passed if it had not been an election year.

It was questioned if he thought the TSPLOST would ever come back for a vote. Williams responded that the legislators should have passed the legislation when they had the opportunity and not allowed it to go to a public vote; he did not think it would be brought back for another vote. A Transportation committee was formed to study other alternatives for funding and hopefully they can come up with something. The future is regional – everybody needs everybody.

OTHER BUSINESS

Update on GARC – CRC GARC Representative Clarence Knight reported that the Annual Economic Development Conference was held in Young Harris in May. A couple of things brought out – 1) Georgia Grown organization – wants cities/counties to help local farmers obtain permits in order to bring their produce to market; and 2) the establishment of a Georgia Regional Commission Geospatial Network with an associated

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Geospatial Information Office. Burns elaborated that the regional commissions were taking the lead on this and are hoping to get buy-in from the state. This is something that everyone agrees is needed; however, no one has wanted to take the lead in getting it done because the problem is that everyone does it differently.

DRI Report: Executive Director Burns referred members to the yellow handout on DRI #2387 Canal Crossing in Glynn County. Very unusual, but no comments were provided by state or federal agencies. The CRC has found that this project is in the best interest of the region and State. *(See attachment 6, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)*

Project Status Reports - *(See Attachments 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* If anyone has any questions, please see staff after the meeting.

CADDA Report: No questions were raised regarding the CADDA report. *(See Attachment 12, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The Area Agency on Aging's annual Volunteer Luncheon was held on April 10th.
- An OEA meeting was held on April 18th to discuss final distribution of lost Brigade funds. Only those who previously received these funds are eligible. If you received funds and have not heard about the final distribution, please let me know.
- Spoke to the Brunswick Kiwanis Club in April.
- Staff facilitated the Liberty County Retreat at Sea Palms in April.
- The College of Coastal Georgia selected the CRC as the 2014 Internship Program of the Year and presented the Chairman with a silver bowl award at their ceremony.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Thomas stated that the military is preparing for another BRAC in 2017. The University of Georgia is conducting our own Programmatic and Environmental Assessments and should be finished in June 2014.

Chairman Thomas stated he would like for the group to approve a letter from this organization to be sent to Senators Chambliss and Isakson and Congressman Kingston identifying two critical points on the importance of our bases. A motion was made for a letter to be done under the Chairman's signature.

Motion: Herb Jones

Second: Mayor Edna Jackson

Vote: Unanimous

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m., with lunch following.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, June 11, 2014, at the Richmond Hill City Center at 10:00 a.m.**